



Dear Evelyn:
What sort of container should I use to store my kitchen scraps before I put them in my food and yard waste cart?

We've received dozens of wonderfully creative and useful ideas for kitchen food scrap containers from our customers, including licorice and margarine tubs, store-bought kitchen compost buckets, and plastic milk jugs with their necks removed. Another suggestion is to use BioBags, which were recently approved by Cedar Grove Composting as 100% biodegradable and 100% compostable.



You can find these and other customer suggestions at www.seattle.gov/util and type in "kitchen container" or write Ask Evelyn for a written copy at the address below.

Many customers suggested using milk cartons. Unfortunately, they and other slick, shiny paper containers are polycoated with a plastic that does not break down into compost. The Cedar

Grove facilities that turn your food waste into compost are being flooded with so many polycoated and waxed paper containers, their screens are getting clogged, with the material ending up in the landfill.

For now, milk cartons can still be used to store your kitchen scraps and placed in the yard and food waste cart, but I suggest exploring other alternatives to store your food scraps. Polycoated paper products that are empty should be rinsed out and put in recycling with your paper, bottles, jars and tubs.

Evelyn:
Can I throw my old energy-efficient light bulb in the garbage?

Fluorescent light bulbs and tubes are a great way to save energy and cut greenhouse gas emissions. They use about 75% less electricity than incandescent bulbs, and last up to 10 times as long. However, fluorescents contain mercury, and are prohibited in the garbage.

Good news! Local stores will recycle your used fluorescent lamps and bulbs. Visit www.takeitbacknetwork.org for a listing of Take It Back Network locations near you. Some stores may charge a fee.

Please send your recycling questions, tips or suggestions to Ask Evelyn, Seattle Public Utilities,
PO Box 34018,
Seattle, WA 98124-4018
or e-mail Evelyn the Envelope at askevelyn@seattle.gov



Thank You!

Last year, Seattle residents helped make 24 million pounds of compost for local parks and gardens by putting leftover food scraps, coffee grounds, paper towels and pizza boxes in their yard and food waste carts.

This month, Seattle and local retailers are offering great discounts to recognize Seattle's 100,000 composting households. Just check the pledge, cut it out and bring it to any local participating Seattle retailer. Offers end **September 30, 2007**.

☐ **YES!** I recycle my leftover food scraps, pizza boxes, and food-soiled paper in my yard and food waste cart, or compost them at home.

Receive great rewards for recycling this month from these Seattle establishments:

- 25% off Cedar Grove Compost - made from your food scraps - at Lowe's.
- 25% off Endurance stainless steel kitchen compost pails at Goods for the Planet.
- Buy a 4-pack of Seventh Generation Bath Tissue and get a 120-count pack of Seventh Generation Paper Towels for free at Seattle's Whole Foods. PLU # 20933
- Buy one reusable PCC purple tote bag and receive a second tote for free at PCC Natural Markets. 99¢ value. NLU # 5757.
- Buy one tall Tully's barista beverage and receive a second tall beverage for FREE (offer excludes ice cream products). BARISTA: Please ring the lower priced beverage, then press "Variable Discount."

Not a subscriber to food and yard waste service? Visit www.seattle.gov/util or call **(206) 684-3000** to sign up today!

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Utilities

ECRWSS
Postal Customer

For interpretation services please call 206-684-3000.
如需要口譯服務，請撥電話號碼206-684-3000。

동역 서비스를 원하시면 206-684-3000으로 전화하세요.

Wixii turjubaan afka ah ku saabsan, Fadlan la soo xariir taleefoonka: 206-684-3000.

Para servicios de interpretación por favor llame al 206-684-3000.

Para sa serbisyo ng tagapagpaliwanag, tumawag sa 206-684-3000.

Về dịch vụ phiên dịch xin gọi 206-684-3000.

This information can be made available on request to accommodate people with disabilities and those who need language translation assistance.
Call Seattle Public Utilities at (206) 684-3000. TDD telephone number is (206) 233-7241.
Please recycle this newsletter or pass it on to a friend. Printed on recycled paper made out of 100% post-consumer waste.

Seattle Public Utilities

CURB WASTE & Conserve

Tips and Programs for Seattle Residents

Fall 2007

Will You Be Ready?

Did you know that during intense rain, flooding may occur without warning? Here are a few steps you can take to keep your family and property safe.

- Clear leaves and debris away from street drains in your neighborhood with a rake or broom (only if it's safe). Don't put grass clippings, leaves, or other debris into drains, ditches, creeks, culverts, gutters or ravines. If a storm drain appears blocked below the street surface, call **(206) 386-1800**.

- Collect fallen leaves in your yard and deposit them in yard waste container or compost them.

- Clean gutters and downspouts twice a year.

- Have a family disaster plan.

- Build a family emergency kit. Keep enough water, food and other supplies (flashlights, crank or battery-operated radio, blankets) in your home to meet your needs for at least three days.

- Be the first to know! Sign up for CurbWaste & Conserve E-News to receive e-mail alerts on weather impacts to your garbage, recycling and drainage services. Sign up at www2.cityofseattle.net/util/forms/curbwaste/subscribe.htm

Please visit www.seattle.gov/emergency to find information on making an emergency kit and creating a disaster plan for you and your family.



City of Seattle

Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

Seattle Public Utilities

Chuck Clarke, Director

PO Box 34018
Seattle, WA
98124-4018

www.seattle.gov/util

(206) 684-3000
(206) 233-7241 TTY

We Want to Hear From You!

Help shape the future of your Seattle Public Utilities! Seattle citizen volunteers are needed for Seattle Public Utilities' advisory committees that help keep us keep in touch with the community's viewpoints on solid waste, water and creeks and drainage issues.

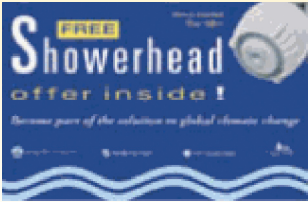
Committees meet monthly in downtown Seattle from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Members can anticipate a time commitment of about 10 hours per month over a two-year term. Please contact Dee Dhlamini at **(206) 684-5343** for more information.



Free Showerhead Offer Ends Soon!

Time is running out on the **FREE** efficient showerhead and faucet aerator offer from your local water and energy utility. Think you already have a water efficient showerhead? These high efficiency showerheads aren’t just regular water saving showerheads. They will save you up to 20 percent more water and energy than the efficient showerhead being sold at local home improvement stores. Act now, they are only available through this limited-time utility offer.

What have you got to lose? You’ll use less water in the shower, conserving water for the environment, salmon and other wildlife, and for our future. And you’ll use less energy to heat your water, meaning less climate pollution.



So make sure you mail in your postage-paid offer by **October 31, 2007**. If you have misplaced or did not receive your mail-back offer, please call **(206) 838-5392** to order, or visit www.savingwater.org to see if you qualify.

The offer is limited to qualified single-family residential households. Showerheads will be offered to multi-family and condo customers in 2008. Customers on utility rate assistance may qualify for free installation.

WaterSense Makes Cents

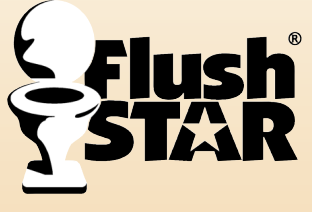
Did you know that toilets are by far the biggest water wasters in the home? Whether you have a very old toilet or a modern model, the new generation of 1.28 gallons per flush WaterSense toilets can save you water and money. Most households can easily save thousands of gallons of water and more than \$100 a year on utility bills by installing a WaterSense toilet.

EPA WaterSense-labeled toilets have been independently tested and proven to perform. Many are now available in local stores from a variety of manufacturers. So whether you’re remodeling a bathroom, or simply replacing an old, leaky toilet, buy WaterSense for high performance AND maximum water efficiency.

For more info about WaterSense toilets or independently tested 1.6 gallons per flush FlushStar toilets, please visit www.savingwater.org or call **(206) 684-SAVE** and select option 6.



Old toilets can be taken to the Toilet Recycling Location at Sand Point, to be made into road bed material. Call **(206) 684-0190** Monday-Friday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. to arrange a time to drop them off.



Plant a Forest!

Join the Green Seattle Partnership and help restore Seattle’s forested parklands. Take part in volunteer events held citywide every weekend, including:

- Removing invasive non-native weeds, like ivy, which are choking our trees.
- Planting new trees and shrubs that are native to our ecosystem.



Celebrate the start of fall planting season on **Green Seattle Day**—Saturday, November 3, 2007—with your friends and neighbors at a park near you.

For event times and locations: www.greenseattle.org or **(206) 292-5907** ext 117.

Green Seattle Partnership:

The City of Seattle and Cascade Land Conservancy working for a healthy, livable city with sustainable forested parklands



Help Fight West Nile Virus

Summer may be almost over, but the threat of mosquito-borne West Nile virus infection remains during warm autumn temperatures.



The City of Seattle has taken preventive steps, such as eliminating standing water on city properties where mosquitoes can breed, and treating underground drainage catch basins with a low-toxicity larvicide to kill mosquito larvae.

You can do your part to prevent mosquito bites and West Nile Virus infection:

- Wear protective clothing.
- Consider using an insect repellent.
- Avoid prime mosquito biting hours outdoors at dawn and dusk.
- Get rid of standing water where mosquitoes can breed:
 - ◆ Tip out water from barrels, buckets, wheelbarrows and plant saucers.
 - ◆ Change water in birdbaths at least once a week.
 - ◆ Dispose of used tires that collect water.
 - ◆ Install a pump to circulate water in closed, ornamental ponds.
 - ◆ Clean leaf-clogged gutters.
 - ◆ Dump water off of tarps and plastic sheeting.
 - ◆ Cover rain barrels with mosquito screens.
 - ◆ Help elderly or frail neighbors and relatives with these tasks.

For more information: Public Health — Seattle and King County: www.metrokc.gov/health/westnile or call the West Nile Virus Hotline at **(206) 205-3883**.

City of Seattle’s West Nile virus response program: www.seattle.gov/util, then click on “About West Nile Virus.”

Right Plants, Right Place, Right Price

Now through October 31 receive at least 25% off selected plants. Local nurseries are teaming up with Seattle Public Utilities to discount plants that will thrive in your garden.

This plant promotion is designed to help you match the right plants with the kinds of conditions you have in your garden. When you make a good match, your plants will flourish without excessive watering, pesticides or fertilizers.

Simplify your plant choices by knowing what your garden offers:

- ✿ average conditions (full sun to partial shade, good drainage and sandy loam soil)
- ✿ dry shade (under conifers and sometimes eaves)
- ✿ moist shade (moist year ‘round without watering)
- ✿ dry sun (eight hours of full sun per day in the summer)
- ✿ moist sun (moist without watering and receives at least eight hours of sun per day)



Photo by Jacqui James Photography in Stacie Crooks’ garden

Where to go...

Participating garden centers include Furney’s Nursery, Molbak’s, Sky Nursery and Swanson’s Nursery. Visit www.savingwater.org to get a complete list or call the Natural Lawn & Garden Hotline at **(206) 633-0224**.

Savvy Gardener Classes for More Inspiration

Take our free classes to learn more about right plant/right place ideas. Some classes require advance registration. Check the schedule at www.savingwater.org/education_classes.htm or by calling the Natural Lawn & Garden Hotline at **(206) 633-0224**.

Take a Tank Test!

Over time, heating oil tanks can degrade and even start to leak! When heating oil leaks from a tank, it can enter the water table and migrate through soil, eventually reaching our creeks, lakes and streams. As you can imagine, they are nearly impossible to trace once they reach our water bodies, so be sure to have your tank tested periodically by your heating oil company to make sure it is structurally sound. And be sure to keep an eye on your heating bill, as leaks can often result in a higher than normal bill.

For free pollution liability insurance, visit www.plia.wa.gov.

If you suspect a tank may be leaking into a nearby waterway, call the Surface Water Quality Hotline at **(206) 684-7587**.

